



# Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dr. Quennel Cooper, Principal of Prairie View Elementary, Honored with Leadership Award**

*[Roseville, MN, January 22, 2024]* – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) is proud to announce that Dr. Quennel Cooper, principal of Prairie View Elementary School in Eden Prairie Schools, has been honored with the West Suburban Division Leadership Award for 2024. This award, given to outstanding elementary and middle-level principals, recognizes Dr. Cooper's exceptional leadership, dedication to educational advancement, and commitment to fostering effective learning environments.

Dr. Cooper earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, a milestone that reflects his deep commitment to improving education. Reflecting on his journey, Dr. Cooper shared, "Every day I am so blessed to live out my dream." As a principal, he has made an indelible mark on his school community, contributing to the development of programs that support both student success and school improvement.

A driving force behind his leadership philosophy is the belief that "Faith is taking the first step when you don't see the whole staircase," a powerful quote by Martin Luther King Jr. It encapsulates Dr. Cooper's approach to leadership—taking bold, visionary steps. His leadership is guided by perseverance, and a focus on creating positive, lasting change for students and staff alike.

In addition to his role as principal, Dr. Cooper serves as the President-Elect of the West Suburban Division and actively leads MESPA's efforts in advocacy through his work with the

Elementary Principals' Action Committee (EPAC). His influence extends beyond the school walls, helping support legislators that align with MESPA's legislative priorities. Dr. Cooper is a member of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) and coaches principals at Courageous Leadership Institute.

### **About Division Leadership Award**

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2025 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Michelle Krell, MESPA Executive Director, congratulated the award winners, "The MESPA Division Leadership Award goes to principals who demonstrate exemplary leadership within their schools, communities, and our association. They embody transformational leadership, propelled by genuine care and dedication to their students, staff, and communities. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment significantly enrich our association."

### **About MESPA**

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association is the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle level principals, dedicated to connecting, developing, and providing resources for principals, and serving as a leading voice for Minnesota education. MESPA is committed to ensuring an inclusive, high-quality academic, and social-emotional education for each child by strengthening, supporting, engaging, and celebrating principals as educational leaders in our schools.